

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Steve Hardiman

Public Information Officer

Indianapolis Department of Public Works

Office: 317.327.2053

CITY RESPONDS TO RESIDENT CONCERNS BY REMOVING ILLEGAL BENCH SIGNS

City agencies and local residents concerned about public safety

INDIANAPOLIS – The Department of Public Works (DPW) along with other city agencies including Parks and Code Enforcement are working in a combined effort to ensure the safety of Indianapolis/Marion County residents by removing unsafe and illegally placed bench signs from the right of way area of city streets.

“There are about 800 of these bench signs illegally placed around the city,” said DPW Deputy Director Kyle Walker. “We’ve received several complaints about them from neighborhood associations and we’re concerned about the safety risk they present as they impede the right of way.”

The privately owned benches restrict travel by vehicles and pedestrians in direct violation of city code, which also states that no part of the right of way area shall be used for any private purpose or business.

Greater Allisonville Community Council (GACC) Vice President Dr Bob Lehnert is happy for the progress being made in removing the signs.

“We have been working with IndyGo to get more benches and shelters placed at bus stops,” said Lehnert. “The public needs to know that the benches are being removed because they are a safety hazard to the riders (as well as an illegal advertisement) and that GACC is working with IndyGo to get these benches placed at stops where riders will be safe.”

The Office of Code Enforcement (OCE) has already begun identifying illegally placed bench signs and marking them with an “illegal sign” sticker. Once sign locations have been documented across the city, DPW will begin the removal process. The bench sign removal process is scheduled to begin May 11, 2009.

DPW will only remove bench signs that have been tagged and documented by OCE. Benches will be taken to one of the following four (4) parks locations as directed by the Parks Department:

Stout Field

Brookside Maintenance

Eagle Creek Maintenance

Central State

-more-

DPW will track all bench sign collections including the date of pickup and drop-off location utilized. The bench signs will be held by the city pending recovery and payment of fees or when the city's Office of Corporation Counsel determines they are legally abandoned.

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